

REMARKS

In the present Office Action the Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to elect a single disclosed group of claims as identified by the Examiner for prosecution on the merits, because the application contains claims directed to species of the claimed invention said to be patentably distinct as follows.

The Detailed Action on page 2 classifies the claims of the present application into nine groups as set forth on page 2 of the Detailed Action, wherein the claims within each group are classified respectively in a different class from the claims in any of the other groups.

As required by the Examiner, Applicant hereby provisionally elects Group I for prosecution without traverse, which includes Claims 1-4, 13-18, 21, 22, 24, 27 and 29-34.

Applicant hereby provisionally withdraws the claims of Groups II - IX from prosecution without prejudice to filing a divisional patent application containing the non-elected claims. The withdrawn claims of Groups II - IX include Claims 5-12, 19, 20, 23, 25, 26, 28, and 35-47.

Please charge any additional fees which may be due or credit any overpayment to Applicant's Deposit Account No. 50-2555 (Whitaker, Chalk, Swindle & Sawyer, LLP).

Respectfully submitted,



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